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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

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Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 17
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 12th meeting, on 16 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 17)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 17 highlighting the priorities defined by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) member States, namely, integration and trade, enhancing the region's productive structure, social equity and cohesion, international migration and sustainable development. The representative also referred to progress made in the area of coordination among regional commissions in the recent past and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

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Discussion

3. Strong support was expressed for programme 17, the contributions of which to the economic and social development of the Latin America and Caribbean region were commended. The work of ECLAC as a centre of excellence was also commended, and the view was expressed that the reiterated use of the term "stakeholders" to refer to beneficiaries of ECLAC services and contributions was an illustration of the firm commitment of the Commission to the countries of the region and the wide range of actors involved in the development process of the Latin America and Caribbean region. The indispensable value of ECLAC in the Latin America and Caribbean region was also stressed.

4. Views were expressed concerning the need to strengthen the role of the regional commissions both in the follow-up to the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the international conferences and summits sponsored by the United Nations in the economic and social field since 1992 and also as the entities in the best position in the United Nations system to harmonize national agendas and global issues at the regional level. The view was also expressed that ECLAC should strengthen its national offices and its role in formulating measures to solve the economic and social development of the countries of the region. The importance of enhancing coordination among the regional commissions was stressed. ECLAC was further invited to fully use the existing forums and mechanisms to reinforce the direct dialogue with representatives of Member States at United Nations Headquarters.

5. The view was expressed that more emphasis should have been placed, in the overall orientation of the programme, on the outcome and follow-up to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, particularly with respect to the elimination of hunger and poverty, achieving gender equity and adopting sustainable development patterns. As to the logical framework of the programme, the view was expressed that a better balance among the strategies, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements should be pursued. The view was also expressed that paragraph 17.4 should have contained a special reference to landlocked countries and small island developing States.

6. Regarding subprogramme 1, ECLAC was called upon to continue its contributions to foster integration at the regional and subregional levels and to pay more attention to the impact of the proliferation of bilateral integration agreements in the region in the context of open regionalism. Concern was expressed over an apparent problem of translation in the Spanish version of the objective of subprogramme 1, that should be modified to reflect the intention of harmonizing and improving the links of national economies with the global economy.

7. The view was expressed that the elimination of poverty should be added as the ultimate goal in the objective of subprogramme 4, while the particular value of the subprogramme to the countries of the region was expressed. Concern was expressed regarding the rights-based approach to development mentioned in the strategy for subprogramme 4. The views expressed on subprogramme 5 concerned seeking a better balance between gender and family issues, the use of lessons learned and the work being done under the subprogramme to achieve social and women's equity in the countries of the region.

8. With respect to subprogramme 6, the view was expressed that there should be more emphasis on international migration following the priorities explained by the United Nations Secretariat. The view was also expressed that ECLAC should improve the dissemination of information on the organization and convening of courses by ILPES to allow all countries of the region to benefit from them. As to subprogramme 8, the need to improve coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was stressed.

9. Expressions of support were made for subprogramme 12 and for the ECLAC-led follow-up activities to review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, while the view was expressed that specific mention of the Programme of Action should have been made in the subprogramme. Several delegations strongly supported the request to give priority and reinforce the work that ECLAC carried out under subprogramme 12 regarding the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Caribbean through joint actions and increased cooperation with other agencies specifically concerned with the subject. The view was expressed that there was a need to improve the links and balance of strategies, objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement throughout the programme.

10. A number of delegations supported the initiative to . create a new subprogramme especially devoted to carrying out subregional activities in South America, based on comparable experiences for Central America and the Caribbean. The view was expressed that the subprogramme should eventually encompass the Andean and Mercosur subregions due to the increasing commonalities among this grouping of countries, as illustrated by, inter alia, national initiatives for the eradication of hunger, the international humanitarian fund, common approaches to water and sanitation issues, coordinated efforts to combat international drug trafficking and shared management of the Amazon forest.

11. Several views called upon ECLAC to take an active role in the stabilization process of Haiti to bring the regional dimension of the United Nations efforts in this matter of outmost importance to the region. One delegation, on behalf of the group of friends of Haiti, expressed the view that ECLAC should provide inputs for the long-term Economic and Social Council programme for Haiti, which closely involved the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean, the latter represented by the Caribbean Community.

12. The view was expressed that more emphasis should be made to encourage and facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among business and private-sector actors and public administration authorities instead of promoting meetings of experts and academics. The view was further expressed that ECLAC should make more efforts to assist countries of the region in combating corruption and to focus on the efficient use of public sector resources by national administrations.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee noted with appreciation the strategic framework for ECLAC under programme 17, which takes into account the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the need for supporting initiatives of the countries in the region in order to achieve the objectives related to a**

better insertion in the global economy, human and social development, regional integration, and strengthening of trade systems with a view to achieving social equality and environmental sustainability. The Committee highlighted the importance of the regional and subregional perspective in implementing those goals, and emphasized the need to strengthen the programmes and activities conducted by headquarters, subprogrammes and regional offices related to supporting closer links between subregional trade blocs, the eradication of poverty and hunger and a better infrastructure in sanitation.

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**